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CANSO ANNOUNCES 3.5% DROP IN GLOBAL AIR TRAFFIC, IMPACT OF VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD

CANSO, the Global Voice of Air Traffic Management, has announced that the closure of European airspace in response to the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud led to a 3.5% drop in global air traffic during April.

CANSO Director General Graham Lake said:

"The unprecedented six day closure of European airspace struck a devastating and untimely blow to the aviation industry, which was only just beginning to recover from the economic recession.

Globally, the ATM sector lost up to 25 million Euros per day during the height of the crisis. As a result, many of CANSO's Members, which are fixed-infrastructure businesses operating in a difficult cost-recovery system, are facing significant financial challenges, and may need to cut costs to recover losses."

"However," Mr. Lake continued, "the crisis has also refocused efforts to create a truly safe and efficient European airspace. CANSO has welcomed measures to improve European coordination and push forward with the implementation of the Single European Sky. Our Members recognise that they have a key role to play and to this end, CANSO's European Coordination Meeting (CECM) held a special session on 18 May to discuss lessons, recommendations and future action. Furthermore, the world's ATM leaders will have the opportunity to debate the response to the ash cloud crisis and discuss future crises at our Global ATM Summit in June."

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CANSO – The Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation – is the global voice of the companies that provide air traffic control, and represents the interests of Air Navigation Services Providers worldwide. CANSO members are responsible for supporting over 85% of world air traffic, and through our Workgroups, members share information and develop new policies, with the ultimate aim of improving air navigation services on the ground and in the air. CANSO also represents its members' views in major regulatory and industry forums, including at ICAO, where we have official Observer status.